

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS STATE 164777

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JUNE 28, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q: HODDING, WHAT IS GERARD SMITH GOING TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR?

A: I THINK THE CHARACTERIZATION WAS TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR
MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. I DON'T HAVE A CHARACTERIZA-
TION BEYOND THAT. I MAY HAVE SOMETHING MORE THAT I CAN
POST. I HAVE VERY SLIGHT GUIDANCE HERE.

HIS VISIT SIMPLY REPRESENTS A STAGE IN THE CONSULTATIONS
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THAT WE HAVE WITH THEM ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTERNATIONAL
CONCERN IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD. WE HAVE HAD A SERIES OF
CONTACTS, SOME OF WHICH YOU HAVE ASKED ABOUT IN THE PAST.
BEYOND THAT, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING.

Q: ANY URGENCY BEHIND HIS VISIT?

A: I WOULDN'T GIVE IT AN URGENT CAST.

Q: DO YOU EXPECT THAT SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT SIGN THE NPT SOON?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY CONJECTURE TO OFFER. I DOUBT IT.
THAT'S NOT EVEN A DISGUISED WAY OF SAYING WE EXPECT OR
WE DON'T. I DON'T THINK THAT THAT'S ANTICIPATED.

Q: IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL
TESTIFYING ON AFRICA THE OTHER DAY ON THE HILL SAID THE
STATE DEPARTMENT DOESN'T CONSIDER THE PLO TO BE A
TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. IS THAT CORRECT? DO YOU KNOW
THE TESTIMONY I'M REFERRING TO?

A: I WAS TOLD ABOUT IT SHORTLY BEFORE COMING IN HERE.
I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE SOME DISCUSSION OF

IT UP ON THE HILL TODAY. I WOULD RATHER TAKE THE QUESTION AND AWAIT THAT. I'LL BE HAPPY TO TAKE QUESTIONS ON IT.

Q: I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, BUT IT'S JUST POSSIBLE THAT WHEN WE GET THAT TESTIMONY IT WON'T SAY WHETHER THE OFFICIAL WAS ON HIS OWN. SO THAT QUESTION I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE. WAS HE ON HIS OWN WHEN HE SAID THE PLO IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION?

A: I THINK MR. HARROP WAS TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, I MEAN AS HE ALWAYS DOES. I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO GO MUCH BEYOND THAT RIGHT NOW, BARRY.

Q: WHAT'S THE DISCUSSION ABOUT?
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A: SOME TESTIMONY BY THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

Q: IS IT ON AFRICA OR TO CLARIFY THIS POINT?

A: I THINK IT WAS A QUESTION HAVING TO DO WITH UGANDA AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF PLO REPRESENTATIVES USING UGANDA PASSPORTS, AS I RECALL IT. THE QUESTION AROSE AS TO HOW WE CHARACTERIZED -- AND I DON'T HAVE THIS IN FRONT OF ME -- THE PLO. AND THERE WAS THEN AN EXCHANGE, WHICH I DO NOT HAVE IN FRONT OF ME, AND I JUST HESITATE TO TRY TO COMMENT ON IT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE RESULTS OF THE MC HENRY MISSION TO ANGOLA?

A: NOTHING BEYOND THAT WHICH, I THINK, SOME OF THE DUTY OFFICERS HAD TO OFFER LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, WHICH IS THAT IN HIS REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AMBASSADOR MC HENRY SAID THAT HE FOUND THE TALKS TO HAVE BEEN USEFUL. WHILE WE HAVE INDICATED, AND DO INDICATE, THAT WE THINK

THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS ARE IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST, THERE IS NOT NOW A PLANNED NEXT MEETING. AMONG THE MATTERS THAT WERE DISCUSSED WERE THE QUESTIONS OF BOTH THE BORDER TO THE NORTH; I.E., THE ZAIRIAN BORDER AND THE NAMIBIAN QUESTION. IN BOTH AREAS I THINK WE'VE INDICATED WE HAD SOME MUTUAL INTEREST.

Q: YOU'RE NOT PREPARED TO SAY THAT THE ANGOLANS TOLD MC HENRY, AS HAS BEEN REPORTED, THAT THEY WILL TRY TO PREVENT FUTURE INCURSIONS FROM ANGOLA TO ZAIRE?
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A: NO. I'M NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SPECIFICS OF
THESE DIPLOMATIC CONVERSATIONS.

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